

the RARS **Exciter**

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society



Worldwide Friendship

November, 2002 Number 380



Photo by Vince KF4ZMV

CHECK-INS FOR DUKE LIVER TRIATHLON (ABOVE) AND MS150 BIKE TOUR (BELOW)



Photo by Gary KN4AQ



FULL STORIES INSIDE

The Exciter

The **Exciter** is the monthly newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It is available in both printed and electronic form.

The printed version is mailed to members just before each club meeting. The electronic form, in Adobe Acrobat PDF format, is e-mailed about a week earlier.

We solicit both articles and advertising. The deadline for submissions is first Friday of the month or Friday after the monthly meeting. Contact the Editor.

The views contained in the Exciter are those of the individual authors, and are not necessarily the views of the Editor, or the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society.

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the Amateur Radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, we incorporated a new RARS, and obtained 501(c)(3) Non-Profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friend-ship through Amateur Radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic need; to educate members in radio technique; and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining Amateur Radio licenses.

Anyone interested in Amateur Radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are \$18.00 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay \$5.00 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12.00 per year. Dues for non-licensed Associate members are \$9.00 per year.

Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer, or the RARS web site (www.rars.org).

Officers

President: Bernard Blackmon W4BRB
919-467-8719
bernardb@mindspring.com

Vice-President: Bob Breyer K1RCB
919-848-7761
breyer@ix.netcom.com

Secretary: Jim Walter KG4FIJ
919-468-5358
jwalter@nc.rr.com

Treasurer: Greg Seamster KE4PAX
919-859-0029
ke4pax@arrl.net

Exciter Editor: Denyse Walter KG4CXR
919-468-5358
kg4cxi@nc.rr.com



INFO

Repeaters in Raleigh:

145.13
146.64
224.64
444.525 (88.5 PL)

WEB SITE <http://www.rars.org>

NEXT RARS MEETING: Tuesday, November 5, 2002 Meeting will be upstairs

**NOVEMBER IS THE RARS ANNUAL
AUCTION
BRING ITEMS BEFORE 7:00PM**

COMING EVENTS

Contact Bill KG4CXY 919-469-0785
or go to www.hampublicservice.org



2nd Annual Cisco 4K Run

Coordinator: Matt Runyan KG4MYD
Date: November 15, 2002
Time: 12:45pm-2:30pm

Old Reliable 10K Run

Coordinator: Ralph Embrey KF4NIR
Date: November 16, 2002
Time: 8:30am-11:00am

Raleigh Marathon

Coordinator: Bill Cole KG4CXY
Date: December 8, 2002
Time: 5:30am-4:00pm

Front Cover:

Anne KG4SWF is meeting with the hams & coordinators of the Duke Liver event held at Falls Lake. Bob K1RCB is giving instructions to the hams at the MS150 in New Bern, NC.

Error in the September, 2002 Exciter: The PIGSKIN article left out 2 very important people . BUDDY KD4PCD and his SON KG4RIY . Thank you for your participation.

**RALEIGH AMATEUR RADIO
SOCIETY MEETINGS**

Date: Every first Tues of the Month

Location: Forest Hills Baptist Church, at Dixie Trail and Clark, In Raleigh

Time: 7:30pm, Folks start showing up a bit before 7 to chat, brag and eat donuts.

VE TESTING: The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing which is on even months. Please bring a photo ID, your original current license if you have one, and any CSCEs you need for credit.. Check into the 8:00 pm net every night on the 146.64 repeater or www.rars.org for information.

**TUNE IN THE
RARS NEWS HOUR**

♦ **Newsline**
♦ **ARRL Audio News**
Sunday Nights following the
RARS 8:00 Net on 146.64

146.88 145.39, 147.05, & 147.135
Repeaters are supported by PCRN
if you would like to donate please
make checks to:
PCRN
PO Box 12734
Raleigh, NC 27605

More info on PCRN:
[Http://www.qsl.net/w4fal/pcrn](http://www.qsl.net/w4fal/pcrn)

The Annual RARS Auction is Tuesday, 11/5/2002

It's open to everyone - you don't have to be a RARS member to buy or sell.

If you're selling, try to have your stuff on the table before 7:00 PM. If you're buying, try to look over the junkie and ask any questions before 7:30. We can't stop the auction while you read the manual. A brief club meeting starts at 7:30, followed by the auction.

Any items related to HAM radio or ancillary services (can include computers, testing equipment, specialized tools, manuals, etc.) can be brought to auction. Label it clearly with your name/call, a description of the item and its condition, and any minimum bid you'll accept.

Buyers pay sellers directly. No bidder numbers, no paperwork, no "cut" for RARS. Seller may wish to donate 10% of the selling price to RARS (Treasurer will be present). RARS is a 501(c)(3) corporation, and donations are tax deductible.

Sellers must be prepared to make change etc. for the purchase.

Sellers may establish a reserve price - ie., price below which item will not be sold if bidding does not go high enough. Seller must communicate reserve to auctioneer before his item is on the block.

**NET REPORTS FOR
September 2002**

- ♦ 8:00PM DAILY: RARS Evening Net
- ♦ 9:00PM MON: SWL SIG
- ♦ 8:30PM SAT : Tech & Traders net

Total Net Activity:

Minutes: 735
Check-Ins: 468
Traffic : 29 brought 27 passed

TECH/TRADER NET

8:30 PM SATURDAY ON 146. 64
TWO NETS IN ONE!

**Minutes of the RARS
August Board Meeting – August 20, 2002**

The monthly Board meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was held at the Forest Hills Baptist Church on August 20. The meeting was called to order by President Bernard Blackmon W4BRB at 7:30 PM. Members present were: KN4AQ, W4BRB, KG4FIJ, KA2FWC, K4HF, K4HM, KG4OQA, AB4OZ, KE4PAX, K1RCB, NI4S, KF4UQZ, WA2UZO. The total attendance including guests was 14.

On motion by K1RCB and second by K4HF, the July 2002 Board Meeting minutes were approved as amended.

V.P. Report: K1RCB gave a short update on planning for MS-150, and informed that next meeting program will be an update on IRLP.

Committee Reports:

FM Committee – KA2FWC reported that we are near possession of the 444.525 repeater, and an antenna for the 145.13 repeater on D.H. Hill. Hope to have both installed in October. Looking to install a 220 machine in the future (already have an antenna). Technical discussion ensued.

Exciter – KG4FIJ (for KG4CXR) reported that the Sept issue will be the last issue for non-renewals. Requested advance notice of meeting programs so the info can be published in an Exciter issue prior to the meeting. Currently have 108 issues sent by e-mail, and 176 issues by U.S. Mail.

Greg KE4PAX reported that total membership is 251.

Net Manager – KF4UQZ thanked everyone for their support during her tenure. New net manager KG4OQA thanked Liz, and reported nets are going strong. Many check ins. Three new net controls have been trained. Two net controls share Tues and Sat nights. Traffic message training is going well.

Web Master – WA2UZO reported that the RARS roster is now on the website, accessible by callsign. Also, a new password look-up feature has been added... enter your callsign and you will receive your password immediately via e-mail (provided you have an e-mail address listed). Joe brought up the subject of online club renewals. After discussion, Joe agreed to prepare a formal plan for the next board meeting. Also discussed selling merchandise with RARS logo on the website.

Member Services – KG4FIJ (for KG4CXR) reported there have been many requests for membership cards.

Hamfest – K4HM reported that financial review will be done soon. Kickoff meeting for 2003 Hamfest is coming up. Hank will be contacting past workers.

Field Day – No report.

Public Information – KN4AQ had nothing to report.

Education – KN4AQ reported that next Technician class will be this winter (Feb/Mar timeframe).

VE Team – No report.

Public Service – K1RCB gave update on MS-150 planning.

ARRL Liaison – K4HF reported that ARRL received a \$180,000 grant to fund ARECC (Amateur Radio Emergency Communication Course), Level 1, to selected hams. Chuck will make recommendation for names to be submitted for training. (Will be “mentor-capable,” tentatively 1 per geographic area.)

Nominating Committee – K4HF reported that Mary KG4OQA will be formally nominated at the next meeting for election as Net Manager.

W4DW/W4RNC Trustee – No report.

Ad Hoc Committees: None.

Unfinished Business:

Financial Audit report will be presented at next board meeting. (Due to AC4ZO being out of town.)

New Business:

(Online dues, and online merchandise, as referred to in Webmaster report above.)

Financial support for PCRN: KN4AQ informed that repairs are needed at the top of the 1,000-ft tower that contains the 145.39 repeater. PCRN is asking for donations to help defray the cost of a tower climber. W4BRB recommended, and it was agreed, that he will bring this up at the next general membership meeting. Motion was made by K1RCB, seconded by K4HM, that the Club match donations up to \$500.00 at the next two meetings. The motion passed unanimously.

Member comments:

KF4UQZ expressed concern about providing support for handicapped hams. Discussion ensued.

K4HF mentioned that we should start thinking about a nominating committee for 2003 elections. K4HM and NI4S agreed to help with this.

KG4FIJ read a thank you card from Joyce Yakamavich WB7TXO, thanking the club for the donation in her husband Vince’s memory.

K4HM reported there will be a “Lu Lu Tech Circus” at the fairgrounds end of Sept. Will include a swapfest. The event is the brainchild of Bob Young, ex-CEO of Red Hat. Info available at www.lulutechcircus.com.

Adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Jim Walter KG4FIJ, Secretary.

RARS NEW MEMBERS

June-September 2002

AJ KG4RMO
Andrew KG4UXS
Bill KB4PCK
Billy KG4RIV
Craig N4XOT
Dan KG4SWE
David KG4RIY
Dick KG4TTB
Don NJ2E

Doug KG4SWB
Ed Westlake KF8SY
Gary KG4HJI
Glenn K8JOI
Jim K4HCG
Joe WB5ZPQ
John KG4SWI
Judy KA8CNR
John KB4IP

Kathleen KB4HWC
Lisa (no call sign)
Lou KE4ARM
Mark KG4RTT
Matt KG4MYD
Maury AG4QZ
Mike WD4MB
Peg KB1HVA
Ken KG4UTQ

Ray WA4OMM
Renard KC4AQC
Robert K2RTB
Russ KG4SZM
Selene KG4RMT
Sherry KG4UMR
Steve AA4PQ
Walter KG4QHL
Mark (no call sign)

RARS welcomes each and everyone. Thank you for considering our club for membership

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Photos by Vince KF4ZMV

Bill KG4CXY



Photo by Vince KF4ZMV

Bob WX4MMM



Photo by Vince KF4ZMV

Dick KD4ISC

Duke Liver Triathlon Sept 15, 2002



Photo by Bill KG4CXY

Fun at the Duke Blue Devil
By Bill KG4CXY– Coordinator of Event

Twenty Hams showed up for the 1st annual running of the Duke Blue Devil Triathlon. This Public Service event had several distinct aspects. First, this was the first full Triathlon ever conducted in the State of North Carolina. Secondly, the Duke Blue Devil Triathlon is the only Triathlon in the country that is a non-profit benefit event. There are only ten full distance Triathlons in the US every year, which makes the Duke Blue Devil somewhat unique.

A full Triathlon is the most extreme sporting event I've personally worked. It involves a 2.4 mile swim, followed by a 120 mile bike race, and capped off with a full 26.2 mile Marathon. Any one of these segments would be an achievement for most of us. To think about doing it all in one day is pushing human endurance to the limits, to say the least.

It was a long day for most of the Ham volunteers. Honorable mention goes to Eric KG4CXW who started the day at 6:00 am, and didn't sign off until 11:50 pm. Most of the other folks on this event also put in long shifts – some lasting longer than 12 hours. (I guess you could say that this was an "extreme" PS event!)

The day began early for those working the Swim event. The Triathlon begins with the swimmers hitting the water at 7:30 am. Dick KD4ISC shadowed the Swim director for the race, with several other folks working as "Maritime Mobiles".

The first swimmer popped out of the water around 9:15 am. He then ran up a hill, disappeared into a changing tent, and moments later was tearing out of the Transition area as reported by Anne Heffron KG4SWF. This marked the point where the race really got interesting from a management point of view. Apparently the Race Organizers had contracted for about 20 deputies from the Wake County Sheriffs Dept. Five minutes after the first Bicyclist left it was discovered that Wake County had decided not to show. This started a mad scramble of volunteers and personnel to get the critical intersections covered before the main body of riders hit the course.

Fortunately, the police from Granville and Franklin County covered the key intersections in their respective areas of the Bike course. There were a lot of interesting radio traffic generated by Vince KF4ZMV, who was riding in the pace car trying to determine where the holes in law enforcement coverage were. Thomas KF4JKQ was also instrumental in helping to liaison our tactical net with the various law enforcement agencies involved.

Early on into the Bike portion the rains came. Once again we were fortunate to have Thomas KF4JKQ on the team to provide real time weather updates from the NWS. The rain started coming down so hard at times that Net Control Eric KG4CXW couldn't hit the repeater we were using. It was at this point that we split the net into two frequencies: One for Falls Lake and one for Durham.

We were short handed for this event. In reality we could have used at least twice as many Hams. This shortage felt especially acute while trying to cover a 120 mile bike course with only six Hams. But we were lucky to have a crew of top quality operators, and they rose to the occasion.

Not only was the crew for Triathlon top quality – they were multi-talented too! The majority of the Hams worked more than one role during the course of this event, and sometimes more. Bob WX4MMM was a Maritime mobile and a rest

stop operator, Vince was an EMS shadow and pace car ride along, and Ralph KF4NIR was a Bike Mechanic ride along and Run Course Shadow, (etc.). It rarely was dull for anyone during this event.

The Duke Cancer Center put on a great finish line treat for all the operators. I don't think I've ever been fed better on a PS event! And the Duke Chapel Quad was a beautiful setting to boot. Most of the operators took a break in the evening to come in for a bite to eat and a break before heading back out to finish the race.

By far, the most difficult portion of this event was the last five hours. As the SAGs patrolled the last 10 miles of the course the number of calls about participants being in medical danger increased. I've worked a fair number of extreme sporting events over the years. But I have never seen athletes in such bad shape as the folks finishing the Marathon portion of the Triathlon. For those of us SAG'ing the course it was disturbing to witness. We had folks wobbling, falling down, passing blood, and just generally looking like death as they completed those last miles. It broke your heart to see folks in such agony - yet refuse any offer of Medical assistance. Now I know where they get the term "Iron Man". These folks definitely were it. The participants seemed like the Energizer Bunny – they kept going, and going, and going...

In spite of their grim appearance, most of the participants would still flash a smile or say "Thanks" as they passed by. What an amazing group of people! You couldn't help but get attached to them. And Liz KF4UQZ and Greg KG4AWG actually did. At 10:00 I broadcast a message to all hams that those who wanted to call it a night could. But Liz and Greg insisted on making sure that the last runners made it in safely. Ralph KF4NIR, Mary, KG4OQA, and Matt KG4MYD decided to stick it out also. I think more than any single thing we did that day, this act proved to the Event Staff the commitment and dedication we Hams brought to the event. And I must say – they were amazed and touched that we cared enough to see it to the end.

And end it finally did. But not before over half the course finishers passed through the Medical tent for aid – usually an IV of fluids and/or something to bring their blood sugar back up. The Medical tent looked like a MASH unit there were so many people being treated. At one time there were thirty people on stretchers getting an IV. Unofficially, of the 256 finishers, 150 required medical treatment at the finish line.

To summarize the experience, I'd say we all worked very hard, but we got back in return a greater measure of enjoyment for our effort.

What an experience. After this event, I feel I'm ready for any mass casualty situation ARES would put me into. <grin>.



Photo by Bill KG4CXY

RARS General Meeting Oct 1, 2002

The RARS general membership meeting was held at Forest Hills Baptist Church on Tuesday, October 1, 2002. President Bernard Blackmon W4BRB called the meeting to order at 7:36 PM.

Treasurer's Report (KE4PAX): There are currently 268 members in the club. Thanks to Joe WA2UZO for setting up an electronic system for paying RARS dues online.

Announcements

Nominating Committee (K4HF): The nominating committee, which consists of Hank K4HM, Chuck K4HF, and Andy NI4S, presented the following nominees for election to the 2003 RARS Board. OFFICERS FOR 2-YEAR TERMS: Vice President, Andy Peterson NI4S; Treasurer, Greg Seamster KE4PAX. BOARD MEMBERS FOR 1-YEAR TERM: Public Service Director: Bob Breyer, K1RCB; Public Information Officer, Gary Pearce KN4AQ; FM Repeater Chair, Frank Scaraglino KA2FWC; RARS 2003 Hamfest Chair, Hank Montgomery K4HM; RARS Exciter Editor, Denyse Walter KG4CXR; RARS Net Manager, Mary Holtschneider KG4OQA; At-Large Director, Dick Bitner W8HYD; At-Large Director, Alan Pitegoff AB4OZ; RARS Membership Chair, Denyse Walter KG4CXR; ARRL Liaison, Chuck Littlewood K4HF; W4DW/W4RNC Trustee, Jeff Wittich AC4ZO; Education Director, (open). COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN: RARS 2003 Field Day Chair, Neal Fisher N4HAF; RARS Volunteer Exam Coordinators, Liz White KO4CK and Joe White WA4GIR; RARS Web Master, Joe Zobkiw WA2UZO.

K4HF asked for further nominations from the floor... there were none. KO4TV moved that nominations be closed, motion was seconded. Passed unanimously. KG4FIJ moved that one vote be conducted to elect the entire slate of nominees, motion was seconded. The nominees were elected unanimously.

PCRN Financial Request: Danny Hampton K4ITL gave a talk about PCRN, thanked the club for their support, and outlined the need for donations. W4BRB announced that the club will match all donations to PCRN up to \$500.00 total.

Red Cross State Fair Volunteers (W4BRB): Two mandatory orientation meetings for volunteers will be held, Oct 6, 3-5 PM at the Fairgrounds, and Oct 10, 7:30-9:30 PM at the Cary Red Cross office.

W4BRB gave an update on activities of the Repeater Group, and informed that the next meeting of the group will be on Oct 31, 7 PM at Danny Musten's office.

Tom N4TAB spoke about ARES and RACES. Standardized DC power connectors have been distributed statewide. There will be a 3-county exercise on Sat, Oct 5. Will include Wake, Durham, and Orange counties, and the state and county EOC's will be activated for the exercise.

Thomas KF4JKQ gave a Skywarn update. He thanked the club for their support. Informed that George Lemons is retiring from the NWS. He hopes to have live updates from Hurricane Lili this week via IRLP. He also reiterated the need for donations to PCRN and made a motion to increase the club matching donation limit from \$500.00 to \$1,000.00. There was no second.

Bob K1RCB introduced the program. An informative program about UPS systems was conducted by Clare Owens N2RJB.

Door prizes were won by KD4ISC and N3DWE.

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Jim Walter KG4FIJ, Secretary.



RED CROSS ADULT FIRST AID CLASS

By Bob K4RLC

Wake ARES sponsored its first American Red Cross Adult First Aid, CPR and AED class at Raleigh Community Hospital on Saturday, Sept 28th, taught by Bob K4RLC.

The first group of participants were Liz KF4UQZ, Tom N4TAB, Bill KG4CXY, Matt KG4MYD, Bob KG4IZA, Bob K1RCB, Richard KF4EAH and his XYL Colleen (no call yet). The participants learned how to respond with first aid in times of traumatic injuries with bleeding, broken bones, heat emergencies; breathing and circulatory emergencies from choking and unconsciousness; and cardiac arrest. They are now "cross trained" to provide not only radio emergency services, but also to provide first aid to reduce illness or injury, or maybe even save a life - the highest form of public service. The next class will be held around February, so start registering now.

Photo by Bob K4RLC



**The Central Carolina
Skywarn Net Meets
Tuesdays at 9:15 PM
on 146.88 Repeater**

Remember to give damage reports AFTER
the storms as well as DURING the storms.

NEW SKYWARN MONTHLY DINNER MEETING

by Denyse KG4CXR EOC Wake County

The first monthly Skywarn meeting was held Sunday Sept 29, at Ryan's Steakhouse in Cary. The guest speaker was Ron Casey K4JDR. He gave an informative talk about how IRLP is utilized during severe weather.

Anyone interested in weather and would like to learn more about Skywarn is invited to meet the last Sunday of every month from 5 to 7 PM at Ryan's, which is located in the Crossroads Shopping Center, Walnut St., Cary. There will be a guest speaker, news from the NWS, and a question and answer session.



**Join Us At the
RARS Dinner**



**Every 4th Tuesday, 6:30 pm at
Fat Daddy's on Glenwood Ave.**

Every Wednesday 9:30 145.19



HAMFEST CALENDAR

October 26:	Sumter, SC
November 9:	Myrtle Bch, SC
November 17:	Benson, NC
December 7:	Union, SC
January 11:	Greenwood, SC
January 26:	Odenton, MD



Courtesy of the SERA Repeater Journal

MS 150 BIKE TOUR

By Conner KE4ZNS



I participated in the MS-150 over the weekend of 14-15 Sep. My role was to be the communication person at rest stop 1/5 (Same location for the outbound and inbound stops). We used as a primary repeater 147.210 which is located on a 500 foot privately owned tower near Oriental. It used to be located at Arapaho, some eight miles away from the current site. The backup repeater was the Grifton machine on 146.685MHZ.

There wasn't much excitement. There was a medic available and she said that the two or three abrasions were more than the year previously. I did get to meet a number of public spirited people who were volunteering a lot of time. I was told various figures for the number of cyclists. The New Bern paper reported "over 700" and I noticed one entry number as high as 1048. So, I suppose it is anyone's guess other than the entry committee's.

I thought the event to be well organized and it ran with few glitches.



Kevin W4KJD's big antenna at Rest Stop 4, Sunday



MS-150 antenna is on only ferrous metal on the truck where a magnetic antenna can be positioned.

John KG4HDT was SAG Control in Gary KN4AQ's Q-Mobile



Photo by Andy NI4S

DIGIPEATER SETUP AT THE MS150

By Andy NI4S

For this year's Eastern NC MS-150, a temporary digipeater node was set up to support APRS activity. We were fortunate enough to have the use of a tower site in New Bern that had a spare 2-meter antenna!

Since there was no power available, we had to supply our own. The large black box contains a 100 Amp-Hr deep cycle marine battery, complete with PowerPole connectors.

The 2-meter mobile rig and TNC digipeated our packets faithfully all weekend long. A second portable digipeater node was deployed for "fill-in" coverage in Pamlico County.



Sandy KE4CT, and Bruce N8UTY in background net control operators

Photos by Gary KN4AQ

VIRGINIA BEACH HAMFEST TICKET WINNERS

By Mary KG4OQA

After winning admission tickets at the August RARS meeting, my husband and I traveled up to the Virginia Beach hamfest on September 28th and 29th. This was the first time we had attended this hamfest, and from what we heard, things were different this year than in the past as both the date and location had changed. The hamfest was held in the Pembroke Mall in a deserted Upton's store. Apparently there will be a Kohl's moving into this space soon, so the organizers were lucky to have this space available at this time. It was well-lit and spacious, but not a typical hamfest space. There were only indoor tables as no outside tailgating was allowed.

I found the hamfest to be very enjoyable. We not only sold some of our goods, but bought some as well. We were fortunate to have a table next to the Virginia Beach club table, so we met many of the members and some enthusiastic young, future hams. The Neptune Festival was in its final weekend, so those wishing to enjoy the beach festivities could do that as well.

The organizers are looking at potential hamfest space for next year. It may possibly be held in the same mall as there are other deserted store spaces there, but that is yet to be finalized.



Dave KG4OPZ and Mary KG4OQA

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MS150 -Hams Relax

Once the day is over hams get together for a fun time of chatting and eating.

The MS150 Bike Tour starts and ends in New Bern, NC. It consists of a figure 8 route that also includes a couple loops of 25 miles to give those a chance for the century bike ride.

See more stories inside.

Photo by Gary KN4AQ